

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING
OF THE
LAFAYETTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
September 19, 2012
11:00am
Board of Works Room**

ATTENDANCE

COMMISSIONERS: Joseph Seaman; Greg Thoennes; Dr. David Bathe; and Dave Zimmerman
CITY OFFICIALS: Tony Roswarski, Mayor; Cindy Murray, City Clerk; Ed Chosnek, City Attorney; Mike Jones, City Controller; Dennis Carson, Economic Development Director; Andy Milam, IT Department Head; and Roger Detzner, Utility Billing Department Head
STAFF: Margy Deverall; Dan Walker; and Nancy Hendricks
GUESTS: Ron Wilkins, *Journal & Courier*; Mike Loizzo, WBAA; Robert Reynolds, LWC; Rich Starkey, Barnes & Thornburg; Jim Higgins, London Witte Group; Steve Biggerstaff, MetroNet; Tom Decker, MetroNet; Oliver Been, Wintek; Travis Bailey, Wintek; Steve Belter, Wintek

President Joseph Seaman opened the meeting.

Approve the minutes of the July 31, 2006 meeting

David Zimmerman moved to approve the minutes of the July 31, 2006 meeting. Greg Thoennes seconded. The motion passed.

Public Hearing on Resolution EDC #2012-01

David Bathe moved to close the Lafayette Economic Development Commission meeting for the purpose of opening the public hearing. David Zimmerman seconded. The motion passed.

Dennis Carson, Economic Development Director, introduced Steve Biggerstaff from MetroNet and Rich Starkey from Barnes & Thornburg who brought presentations for the Commission and then invited the Mayor to speak.

Mayor Tony Roswarski commented on the long sought after opportunity to bring fiber optic infrastructure to the city, on the collective effort by West Lafayette and the county to help bring this to every household and business, and on the economic development that this opens for the community.

Steve Biggerstaff gave his report on the project with a power point presentation (attached to these minutes.) The presentation included background on MetroNet (based in Evansville) from their first project in Greencastle to the present project with Lafayette, West Lafayette and Tippecanoe County. MetroNet will be adding 40 to 50 new jobs. Mr. Biggerstaff then introduced their first employee for the Lafayette project, Tom Decker, who will be managing the project.

Rich Starkey explained the bonding process and the procedural steps involved. The Economic Development Commission recommends to the City Council for approval, Area Plan Commission reviews the Economic Development Commission report and on approval sends recommendations and their report to City Council for final review and approval. The bond will be bought by MetroNet, and the state will calculate the tax to MetroNet for repayment of the bond. There will be no liability to the city for the \$6.5 million bond.

Steve Biggerstaff continued his presentation with explanations of how each line would be determined (underground and aerial lines), with the number of project phases within the city limits and the non-incorporated portions of Tippecanoe County, and with the expected timeline of construction start date and completion (January 2013 start with expected first service in the second quarter of the year – 24 months to completion.)

Dr. David Bathe commented that the comprehensive nature of the project was staggering in size and vision. Responses to Dr. Bathe's comment referenced the decade long wait for such an event.

President Joseph Seaman asked for questions and comments from the public. Hearing none, he again invited anyone to make any statements regarding the issue. Again there was no response.

David Bathe moved to close the public hearing. David Zimmerman seconded. The motion passed.

Resolution LEDC #2012-01

David Bathe moved to approve this resolution for consideration by City Council. David Zimmerman seconded. The motion passed.

Public Comment

President Joseph Seaman called for any additional public comment. Hearing none, David Zimmerman moved to adjourn the meeting. David Bathe seconded. The meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Hendricks
Recording Secretary*

Commission Secretary